

0-6412

Deputy Executive

13 September 1949

Acting Assistant Director for Operations X

ICAPS

1. ICAPS, because of the policy of rotating its personnel from and back to the IAC Agencies, is not the ideal group to perform the top level substantive planning for CIA. Its members are not usually trained in intelligence prior to entering upon duty in CIA; and when they have become experts on CIA and intelligence, they are assigned elsewhere.

2. In order to overcome this unavoidable handicap, it is suggested that consideration be given to transferring the planning responsibilities of ICAPS to a new Planning Staff. Such a staff would be most effective if its personnel were composed of professional intelligence civilians carefully selected by the Executive from each of the existing offices of CIA on the basis of planning ability, operational experience and, where requisite, long term duty in the Agency. An executive decision would have to be made as to whether officers assigned to the staff should be responsible to their Offices of origin, whether they should periodically be rotated back to their Offices, or be assigned permanently to the staff without allegiance to any other component of CIA.

3. It would seem advisable that the functions of the Planning Staff include the following:

a. Preparation of interdepartmental policy papers as directed by the DCI.

b. Reconciliation of interdepartmental papers among the Assistant Directors.

c. Review of CIA substantive activities to determine whether its responsibilities under the Defense Act and the NSCID's are being carried out.

d. Preparation of long term planning papers.

4. If the recommendation of this memorandum is accepted, it is further suggested that ICAPS be made responsible for the review of interdepartmental papers prepared by the Planning Staff, and subsequent action thereon, in addition to its IAC liaison activity and any OCD function assigned in accordance with NSCID No. 50.

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